

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region III, Philadelphia PA**

Please Note: This information is initial notification data and may be subject to verification.

**Incident Notification No.:** 1 **Incident Type:** FIXED  
**Incident Date:** 02/16/2012 **Incident Cause:** UNKNOWN

<u>Incident Location</u>	<u>Affected Medium</u>
1400 BIGGER RD. NULL NULL City*: BULGER ZIP: 15019      State: PA County: WASHINGTON	Medium: WATER      Waterway: BIGGER RUN Tributary to: RACoon CREEK Additional Medium Info: BIGGER RUN, SOIL (HILLSIDE)

\* Nearest city to incident location is given. Incident may not have occurred within city borders.

**Spilled Material:** UNKNOWN MATERIAL      **Quantity:** 0      **Units:** UNKNOWN AMOUNT

<u>Potential Response Party</u>	
<b>First Name:</b> SCOTT	<b>Company:</b> CHEVRON APPALACHIA
<b>Last Name:</b> KOHNE    EXT. 107	<b>Type:</b> PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Bigger Run Creek Site - Removal Polrep  
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial and Final POLREP  
Bigger Run Creek Site  
  
Bulger, PA  
Latitude: 40.4500860 Longitude: -80.3432530

**To:** Fran Burns, EPA Region 3  
R3 RRC, EPA Region 3

**From:** Deborah Lindsey, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 5/31/2012

**Reporting Period:** 2/16/12 - 5/31/12

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>
<b>Response Lead:</b>	<b>Incident Category:</b> Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b> Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Preliminary Assessment of an unknown material

**1.1.2 Site Description**

Bigger Run Creek which enters into Beaver Pond and feeds into Raccoon Creek

**1.1.2.1 Location**

Bigger Road located in Robinson Township, Washington County, PA.

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Potential for an unknown material to have entered into Beaver Pond from a release that occurred upgradient to Bigger Run Creek

**1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Off-site screening of unknown material using a Hazmat ID Ranger was inconclusive

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

On February 16, 2012, EPA received NRC Report # 1003155 submitted by Robinson Township regarding a release of an unknown material from an unknown source into Bigger Run Creek. The Reporting Party also called the EPA Regional Response Center (RRC) specifically requesting EPA assistance.

OSC Lindsey returned the call to Robinson Township to discuss what assistance could be provided. The Township Representative specifically requested assistance in determining what the unknown material might be on an absorbent pad found in Beaver Pond which is located down gradient from Bigger Run Creek. Robinson Township recovered an absorbent pad from Beaver Pond and described it as having a brown material on it similar to the material reported in Bigger Run Creek.

PADEP has been conducting oversight on the cleanup of a spill which occurred in December at a Chevron-Appalachia Marcellus Shale well site located on Bigger Road. PADEP told the Township Representative that pads were not placed in Beaver Pond to recover/contain released material. The pad may have blown into the pond. The PADEP would not test the pad due to chain of custody issues.

OSC Lindsey informed the Township Representative that EPA could not assist with laboratory analysis for similar reasons. OSC Lindsey and the Township Representative discussed what other assistance could be provided. With limited options, OSC Lindsey offered the possibility of conducting field screening of the absorbent pad using a Hazmat ID Ranger (hand held infrared spectrophotometer) with the understanding it might not be able to identify anything on the pad. The Township Representative accepted the assistance.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

On March 15, 2012, OSC Lindsey and EPA START Iacovone met the Township Representative at the Robinson Township Municipal building to attempt identification of a substance on an absorbent pad contaminated with an unknown material. The pad was being stored in the Township Office's garage in a plastic bag. START conducted the necessary calibrations to the Hazmat ID Ranger (HazMatID) on-site and was provided the pad. The pad had not been preserved as initially described and was being stored in an open grocery store-type plastic bag. The pad was observed to have a dried brown material on it.

Using the HazMatID, several different attempts were made to identify the material. A brief description of each method attempted follows:

- A very thin piece of contaminated absorbent material was removed from the pad and scanned by the HazMatID. The result was inconclusive.
- A piece of the material which was clean, visually, was scanned on the HazMatID. This was followed by scanning a contaminated piece and then subtracting the first spectra from the second, however, the results were again inconclusive.
- An attempt was made to press out some of the unknown that had been absorbed, however, the absorbent pad was too dry for this to work.
- A small portion of the contaminated material was placed in a solvent (acetone) and samples of the neat solvent and solvent utilized for extraction were both scanned. The spectra of the neat solvent was subtracted from the spectra of the extraction solvent to identify any solutes present in the extraction solvent (in other words, any chemical compounds extracted by the acetone from the absorbent). The results were inconclusive.

At this point, OSC Lindsey, START, and the Robinson Township Representative drove to the area that the absorbent pad was retrieved from to determine if a direct sample could be taken. OSC Lindsey and START identified some sheens, however, they appeared to be biological in nature and not thick enough to collect a sample. There were a couple of areas where there appeared to be foam atop stream water. A sample of the foam was collected and analyzed on the HazMatID. The results were also inconclusive.

For purposes of this screening – the term inconclusive means that there was a great deal of uncertainty with regards to positive identification of compounds. The screening did not show anything that the instrument could identify at greater than a 50% certainty.

### **2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

No information available at this time.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Next Steps**

With completion of the field screening, there are no further site related activities planned by EPA.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

No information available at this time.

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
NRC – National Response Center  
OSC – On-Scene Coordinator  
RRC – Regional Response Center  
START – Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team  
PADEP - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.



RE: NRC Report #1003155

Yantko, Vincent

to:

Bialosky, Donald, Deborah Lindsey, Arch, Michael, Crook, Jack, Eichler, Alan, Ritzer, Edward, Stivanson, Dennis

02/27/2012 02:58 PM

Hide Details

From: "Yantko, Vincent" <vyantko@pa.gov> Sort List...

To: "Bialosky, Donald" <dbialosky@pa.gov>, Deborah Lindsey/R3/USEPA/US, "Arch, Michael" <march@pa.gov>, "Crook, Jack" <jacrook@pa.gov>, "Eichler, Alan" <aeichler@pa.gov>, "Ritzer, Edward" <eritzer@pa.gov>, "Stivanson, Dennis" <dstivanson@pa.gov>

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

This is the Chevron RobinHill 15 condensate spill from an underground pipeline at the well site .

Mr. Ward found an absorbent pad that apparently blew into a Beaver Pond & wanted DEP to sample it ?

This is apparently an EPA request based upon NRC report / Township request ?

Alan -- do you want to call back EPA ? or me ?

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**From:** Bialosky, Donald

**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 1:08 PM

**To:** Deborah Lindsey; Arch, Michael; Crook, Jack; Eichler, Alan; Ritzer, Edward; Stivanson, Dennis; Yantko, Vincent

**Subject:** FW: NRC Report #1003155

DEP SWR Oil and Gas Management would have primary jurisdiction concerning this incident but other SWR programs may be involved as well (such as Waste Management).

I have forwarded this request on to Oil and Gas Management

**From:** Deborah Lindsey [<mailto:Lindsey.Deborah@epamail.epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 9:20 AM  
**To:** Bialosky, Donald  
**Subject:** NRC Report #1003155

Hi Don

The Philadelphia RRC received a call from Mr. Richard Ward from Robinson Township (Reporting Party on the attached NRC Report). Mr. Ward is looking for assistance in getting the material from the release sampled.

Is this NRC Report in your jurisdiction or marcellus shale related and with the Oil & Gas Group.

I just want to make sure that I am coordinating with the right group.

Thanks

Debbie

~~~~~  
Debbie Carlson Lindsey  
On-Scene Coordinator  
USEPA Region 3  
Wheeling Field Office  
1060 Chapline Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
(304) 234-0249 (office)  
(304) 281-2569 (cell)

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER 1-800-424-8802

\*\*\*GOVERNMENT USE ONLY\*\*\*GOVERNMENT USE ONLY\*\*\*

Information released to a third party shall comply with any applicable federal and/or state Freedom of Information and Privacy Laws

Incident Report # 1003155

## INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

\*Report taken by: CIV NICHOLAUS THREATT at 13:36 on 16-FEB-12

Incident Type: FIXED

Incident Cause: UNKNOWN

Affected Area: BIGGER RUN

Incident was discovered on 16-FEB-12 at 09:00 local incident time.

Affected Medium: WATER BIGGER RUN, SOIL (HILLSIDE)

## REPORTING PARTY

Name: RICHARD WARD  
Organization: ROBINSON TOWNSHIP WASHINGTON COUNTY  
Address: 8400 NOBLESTOWN RD.  
MCDONALD, PA 15057

PRIMARY Phone: (724)9268700

Type of Organization: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## SUSPECTED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Name: SCOTT KOHNE EXT. 107  
Organization: CHEVRON APPALACHIA  
Address: 1400 BIGGER RD.  
BULGER, PA 15019

PRIMARY Phone: (724)5642360

## INCIDENT LOCATION

1400 BIGGER RD. County: WASHINGTON  
City: BULGER State: PA Zip: 15019  
NATURAL GAS WELL SITE

## RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: UNK Official Material Name: UNKNOWN MATERIAL

Also Known As:

Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

Qty in Water: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

## DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER IS REPORTING A RELEASE OF AN UNKNOWN MATERIAL FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE DUE TO AN UNKNOWN CAUSE AT THIS TIME. CALLER STATES A ROAD CREW DISCOVERED THE RELEASE WHILE PERFORMING A ROUTINE DRIVE-AROUND.

## SENSITIVE INFORMATION

## INCIDENT DETAILS

Package: NO  
Building ID:  
Type of Fixed Object: OTHER  
Power Generating Facility: NO  
Generating Capacity:  
Type of Fuel:  
NPDES:  
NPDES Compliance: UNKNOWN  
---SHEEN INFORMATION---  
Sheen Color: FAINT COLORS  
Sheen Odor Description: POSSIBLE PETROLEUM ODOR

REVIEWED BY

DATE:

Ruth Schae

Sheen Travel Direction:  
Sheen Size Length:  
Sheen Size Width:  
---WATER INFORMATION---  
Body of Water: BIGGER RUN  
Tributary of: RACCOON CREEK  
Nearest River Mile Marker:  
Water Supply Contaminated: UNKNOWN

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IMPACT

Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN

INJURIES: NO Hospitalized: Empl/Crew: Passenger:  
FATALITIES: NO Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant:  
EVACUATIONS: NO Who Evacuated: Radius/Area:

Damages: NO

| Closure Type | Description of Closure | Hours Closed | Direction of Closure |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Air:         | N                      |              |                      |
| Road:        | N                      |              | Major Artery: N      |
| Waterway:    | N                      |              |                      |
| Track:       |                        |              |                      |

Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN  
Media Interest: NONE Community Impact due to Material:

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REMEDIAL ACTIONS

✓ CALLER STATES ABSORBENTS WERE APPLIED, CLEANUP IS UNDERWAY AND AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY.  
Release Secured: UNKNOWN  
Release Rate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated Release Duration:

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WEATHER

Weather: RAINY, 40°F

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ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal: NONE  
State/Local: DEP  
State/Local On Scene: DEP  
State Agency Number: NO REPORT #

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NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC

ATLANTIC STRIKE TEAM (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (609)7240008  
DHS NOC (NOC)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (202)2828114  
CGIS RAO ST. LOUIS (COMMAND CENTER)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (314)2692420  
DOT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (202)3661863  
U. S. EPA III (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:46 (215)8149016 MS MARZULLI  
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORD CTR (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (202)2829201  
NJ STATE POLICE (MARINE SERVICES BUREAU)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (609)9636900



NOAA RPTS FOR PA (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (206)5264911  
PA STATE POLICE (BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (717)5255260  
SECTOR OHIO VALLEY (COMMAND CENTER)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (502)7795424  
SECTOR OHIO VALLEY (MSU PITTSBURGH)  
(412)6445808  
SECTOR OHIO VALLEY (MSU PITTSBURGH AUTOMATICS)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (412)6445808  
✓ PA EMERG MGMT AGCY (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (717)6512001  
USCG DISTRICT 8 (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (504)5896225  
WEST VIRGINIA DEP (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (304)5585938  
WV DEP ATTN: DUTY OFFICER (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (800)6423074  
WV DEP SPILL LINE (MAIN OFFICE)  
16-FEB-12 13:45 (304)3683960

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CALLER WILL NOTIFY THE FIRE DEPT.

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\*\*\* END INCIDENT REPORT #1003155 \*\*\*Report any problems by calling 1-800-424-8802  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>*faxed report to PADEP V**2/16/12  
LM**TRANSFERRED to  
Kurt Smith left message  
asked him to call me  
back to confirm he  
got the report  
Derek Scharr*

post-gazette.com  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

## Chevron assessing damage of Washington Co. well leak

Tuesday, February 28, 2012  
By Don Hopey, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A leaking 2-inch pipe carrying oily condensates from a fracking operation at a Chevron-Appalachia Marcellus Shale well in Robinson, Washington County, has become a much bigger problem than the company and state regulators thought when it was discovered 10 weeks ago.

The leak from a faulty pipe joint weld buried 4 feet under the well pad was discovered by the company and reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection on Dec. 20. At the time, Chevron thought it had spilled about two barrels, or about 100 gallons, and told the DEP it was a minor incident and under control.

But the DEP said Chevron now estimates that as much as 80 barrels, or 4,000 gallons, of condensate -- also known as "wet gas" -- leaked from the pipe between Nov. 8, when the well fracking began, and its discovery 42 days later.

"We're still in the process of assessing the damage caused by this leak," Trip Oliver, a Chevron spokesman, said Monday. "When you have a leak in an underground condensate line, the assessment is not as simple as if the leak was above ground. We've been remediating the site since it was first discovered in December."

John Poister, a DEP spokesman, said the leaking pipe's location, buried instead of above ground where a leak could have been more quickly discovered and fixed, will be part of the department's ongoing investigation, which he described as "still in the early stages." No notices of violation have been issued.

Mr. Poister said at least 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil has been dug up on the well pad, and the company has indicated that condensate contamination has spread off the well pad onto adjacent areas of the site property.

"So far, 113 [Dumpsters] have been filled with soil removed from the well site," Mr. Poister said in an email response to questions. "Condensate has been detected off the well pad within the surface waters below the site."

Mr. Poister said containment booms, hay bales and absorbent pads have been deployed around the site to corral and soak up the contaminated water and the DEP has taken soil and water samples. He said the department doesn't know yet if any condensate found its way into Bigger Run Creek, a tributary of Raccoon Creek.

In response to concerns from three nearby residents, Mr. Poister said the department has recommended that Chevron contact them and test well water supplies. He said there is no indication that private well supplies have been contaminated.

Mr. Oliver said the company is developing a final remediation plan, due to the DEP by the end of this week, and "sampling will be a part of that." The company has drilled at least 15 borings to depths between 6 and 12 feet and hired a consultant to help determine the extent of the soil and water contamination.

Reports to and by the DEP a week ago that a second leak had occurred at the well site were erroneous.

Don Hopey: [ghopey@post-gazette.com](mailto:ghopey@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1983.

First published on February 28, 2012 at 12:00 am

### PIPELINE

» [A website](#) for ongoing coverage, resources, comments and more.

» Follow the Post-Gazette's coverage of the Marcellus Shale on Twitter at [@pipelinePG](#).

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[what's this]

# DEP probes gas well spill

2/18/2012 3:32 AM

MCDONALD - A spill of what appears to be condensate at a gas well site owned by Chevron-Appalachia in Robinson Township was being investigated Friday by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Robinson Township Supervisor Brian Coppola said the spill at the site on Bigger Road was discovered Thursday by a township employee and DEP was notified.

The material had run into Bigger Run Creek, which Coppola said feeds into Raccoon Creek. He expressed concern about the number of residents who have private water wells in that area.

John Poister, spokesman for the Southwest regional office of the DEP, said an unknown amount of condensate was released into the soil and ran down a hill into the creek. Condensate is a liquid byproduct of gas drilling, which Poister said is wet natural gas.

He said a cleanup crew was on site Friday and placing absorbent material in the creek. Officials are still trying to determine the cause.

Poister said this is the second spill at the site. The first occurred in December. DEP was notified by Chevron of that leak and the company had been working on remediation. A violation notice was not issued to Chevron.

Trip Oliver, manager of policy, government and public affairs, said Chevron stopped the December leak, notified the DEP and "has continued to work with the DEP during the course of its remediation efforts."

Chevron officials did not return calls seeking comment about the second spill Friday afternoon.

DEP investigators were at the site of the second spill Friday and plan to return next week. Lab testing is being done to determine how large the spill is and exactly what it is, Poister said.

Coppola said a township employee noticed the leak while inspecting the nearby Laurel Mountain Midstream dew point control facility. The township reported the leak to the DEP, which had not been aware of it.

"This is the problem with the state watching this industry: they are not following it," Coppola said.

Coppola and other officials at Robinson Township have been outspoken in their criticism of the new state impact fee bill which stripped municipalities of some local zoning and oversight of the gas industry.

**\*CORRECTION\***

The location of a spill of what appeared to be condensate last week at a gas well site owned by Chevron-Appalachia was Bigger Road in Robinson Township. Incorrect information appeared in Saturday's edition. Copyright Observer Publishing Co.